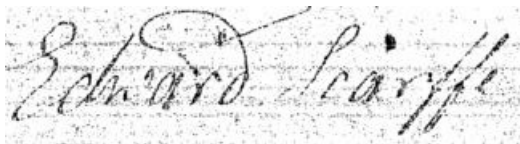


## Edward Scarffe in Cheraws District, South Carolina

It's been known for some time that Edward bought and sold 130 acres on Lake Swamp in Cheraws District in 1782 and 1783, respectively. Most early records for this area were lost in 1806 when the Darlington County courthouse burned but fortunately the 1783 deed (attached) was preserved in a collection of "lost and hidden" early records housed at the state archives. The deed abstract<sup>1</sup> fills in some details but the deed itself is noteworthy for the fact that although the seller was identified as *Edward Scalf* in the body of the deed, it was signed *Edward Scarffe*.<sup>2</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward Scarffe". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the 18th century.

The tract was described as "bounding S<sup>o</sup> W<sup>t</sup> on Lands of James Curtis other Sides Vacant from a Tract of Three Hundred acres afores<sup>d</sup> Curtises..."

It appears from the "memorial of Sales and Conveyances" recorded in the Darlington County Clerk's office between 1 June 1789 and 1 January 1790 that Richard Curtis and his wife sold 130 acres on Lake Swamp to John Huggins in April 1779; John Huggins sold the same to Edward in April 1782; Edward sold it to James Marlow Sr. in February 1783; and it passed from him to James Marlow Jr. by deed of gift in August 1783.<sup>3</sup>

John Hickson was one of the witnesses to Edward Scarffe's deed and associations between Hicksons and Scaffs/Scarffs were found in the later records of both Darlington and Williamsburg counties.

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<sup>1</sup> John L. Andrews, Jr., *Abstracts of Lost & Hidden Darlington County, SC Records 1751 – 1900* (Hartsville, SC: Old Darlington District Chapter, SCGC, 2020), p. 51.

<sup>2</sup> According to Brent H. Holcomb, editor of the *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* from whom the deed was obtained, "I suspect that Mr. Horace Rudisill, who was the person at the Darlington County Historical Commission, copied that original deed at some point."

<sup>3</sup> Andrews, *Abstracts of Lost & Hidden Darlington County, SC Records*. From p. i: "These memorials were reports sent from the Clerk of Court and the Judge of the Ordinary (Probate) to the South Carolina Secretary of State. These semi-annual memorials summarized the land and slave conveyances recorded and estates probated. A total of six of these reports exist, covering approximately three years of Darlington County recordings prior to 1806." p. 131; each of these transactions was for 130 acres on Lake Swamp. The date of the last transaction was not stated here but was noted in "Darlington County Memorialized Records," *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* 2 (Spring 1979), p. 78.

## Scaffs in Cheraws and Georgetown Districts

**Martha Scarff** is generally believed to be Edward's widow because of her appearance as a head of household on the 1790 census for Cheraws District. The census record at Ancestry.com places the inhabitants of Cheraws in St. Thomas Parish but this is incorrect and it is not stated anywhere on the actual census pages. St. David's was the only parish in Cheraws, created the year before the district itself;<sup>4</sup> St. Thomas was located in what is now Berkeley County.<sup>5</sup>

**Edward and William Scarf** were heads of household in Georgetown District in 1790 and given how relatively uncommon the surname is, it doesn't seem likely they were not related to Edward Scarffe and Martha Scarff, however distantly.

Edward Scarf's household included two males over the age of 16 and one female. The possibility can't be ruled out that this was the same person as the 1783 Edward Scarffe though it would raise some obvious questions such as whether he was indeed the husband of Martha Scarff and if so, why she appeared to be widowed if he was still living. Edward wasn't on the next census there, nor was he found in a selective search of available records for Williamsburg County, which was created from Georgetown District.<sup>6</sup> Thus far I have not tried to track him further.

William Scarf's household was occupied by one male over the age of 16 and one female. He was still there in Williamsburg County in 1800. Based on this census he was born between 1756 and 1774, making him a bit older than my John Scaff. In 1807 William Scarff and his wife Rhoda sold several tracts of land in Williamsburg<sup>7</sup> and as no further records have been found for William there, it may be they were pulling up stakes preparatory to moving elsewhere.

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<sup>4</sup> For more information, see "Cheraws District, South Carolina: A Brief History" by this compiler.

<sup>5</sup> "South Carolina Parishes - 1704 to 1775", Carolana, [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Royal\\_Colony/sc\\_parishes.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Royal_Colony/sc_parishes.html).

<sup>6</sup> Court and land records for Williamsburg County are available at FamilySearch from 1806 and probate records reportedly from 1802 but the earliest volume of probate records does not have an index and will need to be manually searched.

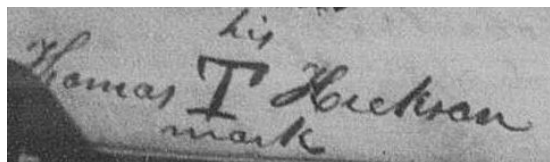
<sup>7</sup> Williamsburg County, South Carolina deeds, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>): Deed Book A, p. 94, image 53; and Deed Book A, p. 143, image 77.

Question: Was this the William Scaff who was named in a 1794 survey on Lake Swamp for James Marlow<sup>8</sup> and the Scaff named on Thomas Hickson's survey the year before?<sup>9</sup>

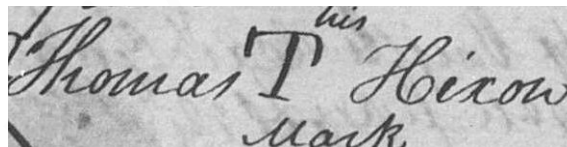
## Hicksons and Scaffs

Thomas Hickson was a witness on one of William Scarff's deeds in Williamsburg. He signed with "his mark", a stylized letter T. This was the same signature seen in a Darlington County deed from Thomas Hixon Sr. of Georgetown District when he sold a tract on Lake Swamp later the same year. The land was described as part of a 200-acre tract granted to him by "his Excellency Charles G Montague"<sup>10</sup> and this grant was issued in 1772.<sup>11</sup>

**Witness on William Scarff deed**



**Grantor, Darlington County tract**



The Thomas Hickson who had 916 acres surveyed on Lake Swamp in 1793 with Scaff on adjoining land was not the same person, judging from his signature when he sold 200 acres of it in 1807. According to this deed he was a resident of Darlington County and the land was part of a tract of nine hundred acres granted on 2 September 1793.<sup>12</sup>

John Scaff was one of the sureties for Sally Hickson when she secured an Administrator's bond on the estate of her husband Thomas Hickson in 1810.<sup>13</sup> And in 1811, he sold Sally Hickson 170 acres on the north side of Lake Swamp that was said to have been part of a tract originally granted

<sup>8</sup> "Brice, Caleb, Plat For 490 Acres On Lake Swamp, Cheraw District, Surveyed By Robert Ellison For James Marlow On September 4, 1794," SCDAH.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.; "Hickson, Thomas, Plat For 916 Acres On Lake Swamp Of Lynches Creek, Cheraw District, Surveyed By Daniel Dubose. Date: 8/6/1793."

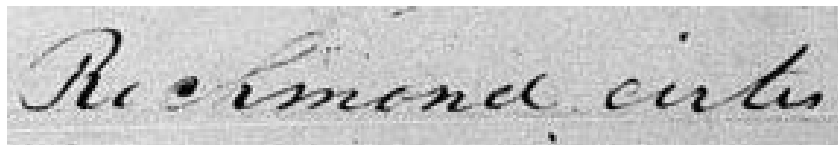
<sup>10</sup> Darlington County, South Carolina Deed Book B, pp. 216-217, image 428; FamilySearch.

<sup>11</sup> South Carolina, Royal land grants, 1731-1775, v. 25, p. 488, image 651; FamilySearch.

<sup>12</sup> Darlington County, South Carolina Deed Book B, pp. 338-339, images 494-495; FamilySearch. His grant for 916 acres was actually dated 2 November 1793; v. 35, p. 181, image 544.

<sup>13</sup> Estate records for Thomas Hickson, no. 377, images 40-70, especially images 68-70; Darlington County Probate records, FamilySearch; path: Start> Probate records> South Carolina, Darlington County Records : COLLECTION RECORD, 1798-1928> select "Browse..."> Probate records> Estate files, no 375A-384, 1800-1923.

in 1778 to someone named Richmond whose last name looks like a misspelled and lowercase version of *Curtis* (below).<sup>14</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richmond curtis". The word "Richmond" is written in a larger, more decorative hand, while "curtis" is in a smaller, simpler cursive. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Question: Could this possibly refer to Richard Curtis, the original grantor of the 130 acres on Lake Swamp that was eventually conveyed to Edward Scarffe?

Regardless of who the grantee was, it's not likely it was issued in 1778. As far as I can determine no grants were issued during the Revolutionary War period: the last Royal grants were issued in 1775 and the first state grants in 1784.

But this does give rise to some *very* speculative conclusions that bear consideration and should be researched further:

- That James Curtis was not the owner of the 300-acre tract referenced in Edward Scarffe's 1783 deed, he only occupied the land. Only one survey was found for James, for 150 acres on Lake Swamp in 1770, but there is no evidence he secured a grant for that or any other land.<sup>15</sup>
- That it was Richard Curtis who owned this land and was therefore legally entitled to sell it. He secured three Royal grants on Lake Swamp in the 1760s and early 1770s, including one for 300 acres in 1765.<sup>16</sup>
- That sometime after Edward sold the 130 acres to James Marlow Sr. he bought the remainder of Richard Curtis's 300-acre tract, i.e., 170 acres, and like other early records for Darlington this one has not survived.
- That this was the William Scaff land shown on the two 1790s surveys; and it was the 170 acres John Scaff sold in 1811 that was described as being part of a tract granted to "Richmond cirtes."

<sup>14</sup> Darlington County, South Carolina Deed Book C-D, pp. 129-130, images 106-107, FamilySearch.

<sup>15</sup> "Curtis, James, Plat For 150 Acres In Craven County. Date: 12/11/1770," SCDAAH. The search included the plats and grants collections for South Carolina at FamilySearch; the plat was located but there were no grants registered for James.

<sup>16</sup> South Carolina, Royal land grants, 1731-1775, v. 12, p. 491, image 276; FamilySearch.

- That William Scaff inherited the land as Edward Scarffe's oldest son; that after William's death the land passed automatically to John Scaff as the next oldest son; and that the Sarah Scaff who headed a household in Darlington in 1810 was William's widow and the male and female aged 10-15 his children.
- That William died before 1800 and the other occupants of John Scaff's household that year were John's brother Isaac and William's widow Sarah with their children, at that time a son and two daughters under the age of 10. This interpretation is based on John Scaff's will and census records, i.e., his oldest named child was Mary, who was born in about 1801 according to the 1860 census.<sup>17</sup> The children shown in John's 1800 household were not there in 1810 and while it was not uncommon for children to die before reaching adulthood it seems a stretch to believe this fate befell all three of these children over the next decade. Alternatively, these may have been Emmilla's children from an earlier marriage but no evidence for that conclusion has so far emerged.
- That the Edward and William Scarff of Georgetown District may have been distantly related to Edward Scarffe but were not his sons as I had previously supposed.
- That the Brunswick County, North Carolina survey for Edward Scarf is still a good fit with the subject of this review.<sup>18</sup> The survey warrant issued in September 1766 described the land as being "below William Morris" and Morris is a common surname in the area where my Scaffs ended up. John Scaff's daughter Sarah married William J. Morris, of course, but an earlier William Morris was named on John Hickson's 1787 Lake Swamp survey.<sup>19</sup>
- That he may have been the Edward Scarffe shown in the accounts of a Charleston County merchant's estate with a bond dated 1 January 1767. Interestingly, a William Morris is on the same list<sup>20</sup> (attached).

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<sup>17</sup> For more information, see "John Scaff estate, Darlington County, South Carolina, Bills in Equity (Chancery Court)" by this compiler.

<sup>18</sup> "North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693-1960," Ancestry.com.

<sup>19</sup> "Hickson, John, Plat For 300 Acres On Lake Swamp, Cheraws District, Surveyed By Lewis Perkins. Date: 2/9/1787," SCDAH. William's name is not in the description but it's shown on the survey.

<sup>20</sup> Charleston County, South Carolina, Miscellaneous record, 1767-1771, image 180, in Miscellaneous probate record, 1696-1792, FamilySearch.

South Carolina  
Craven County

This Indenture made this 22 day of February One thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty three  
Between Edward Scalf & James Marlowe Witnesses That for and in consideration of the  
Sum of Ten Shillings Current Money of y<sup>e</sup> State of South Carolina by y<sup>e</sup> Said James Marlowe  
to y<sup>e</sup> Said Edward Scalf in hand paid y<sup>e</sup> Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged he y<sup>e</sup> Said  
Edward Scalf hath bargained & Sold & by These presents doth bargain & Sell unto y<sup>e</sup> Said  
James Marlowe So<sup>r</sup> All That parcel or Tract of Land Containing One Hundred & Thirty  
Acres by a plott whereof is hereunto Annexed and bounding S<sup>o</sup> on Lands of James Currier  
all other Sides Vacant from a Tract of Three Hundred Acres afores<sup>d</sup> Curriers Situating  
in Said County on Lake Swamp with all and Singular y<sup>e</sup> woods under woods Timber &  
Timber Trees lakes ponds of Fish water & water Courses profits & Hereditaments  
Whatsoever hereunto belonging & y<sup>e</sup> Reversions & Remainders thereof To have & to hold y<sup>e</sup> Said  
Tract of Land Containing one hundred & thirty acres with all & Singular y<sup>e</sup> profits premises  
herein belonging mentioned & Intended to be hereby bargained & Sold with there appur-  
tenances unto y<sup>e</sup> S<sup>r</sup> James Marlowe his Heirs & Assigns from y<sup>e</sup> Day Next before y<sup>e</sup> day  
of y<sup>e</sup> date of These presents for and during & unto the full End & Term of One whole  
Year from thence next ensuing & fully to be compleated & yielding & paying therefor unto y<sup>e</sup>  
Said Edward Scalf y<sup>e</sup> Rent of one pepper corn at y<sup>e</sup> End of y<sup>e</sup> Term if y<sup>e</sup> Same be Law-  
fully Required or demanded to y<sup>e</sup> Intent & purpose that by Virtue of these presents and of  
The Statute for Transferring uses into possessions he y<sup>e</sup> Said James Marlowe may  
be in y<sup>e</sup> actual possession in all & Singular y<sup>e</sup> premises hereby bargained and Sold  
And be Enabled thereby to Except & take a grant & Relieve of y<sup>e</sup> Reversions & Inheritance  
of the pre bargained & to him y<sup>e</sup> Said James Marlowe his heirs and Assigns for





SMITH

96  
111

Searf }  
to }  
Marlow Sen<sup>r</sup> }  
130 Acres  
Newman Family Tree

Recording 3/31/2

FILED  
CLERK OF COURT

APR 4 2 21 PM '60

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
DAN E. BEASLEY, CLERK

BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Smith is Carolina



Received the day & year first above  
Written of & within named James  
Marlow of Sum of ten Shillings  
Currency being the full Consideration  
Money within mentioned  
Recd: by me ~~~~~

Edward Scarffe

Newman Family Tree

Darlington County  
Clerks office

Recorded in book AA pages 72:73 & 74 and examined  
this 27th August 1789

by Edward Mizon *(signature)*



Date of the Bond,	Names	Sterling Bonds		Floridiana Currency		Time of Interest Commencing
		Penalty	Conversion	Penalty	Conversion	
1 Jan <sup>y</sup> 1767	William Gear			521 <sup>3</sup>	260 <sup>11</sup> 6	from the date
Ditto	Obniet Barkar	521 <sup>17</sup>	26 <sup>8</sup> 6			Ditto
D <sup>o</sup>	Lewis Duprie	64 <sup>10</sup> 6	32 <sup>5</sup> 3			Ditto
13 Novem <sup>r</sup> 1766	Abraham Lyons			286 <sup>4</sup> 6	143 <sup>2</sup> 3	1 Jan <sup>y</sup> 1767
23 <sup>d</sup> Decem <sup>b</sup> 1766	James Thomas			1811 <sup>14</sup>	912 <sup>7</sup>	from the date
1 Jan <sup>y</sup> 1767	John Edwards			1259 <sup>4</sup> 6	629 <sup>12</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	Benjamin Wall			540 <sup>19</sup> 6	270 <sup>9</sup> 9	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	James Munnerlin			1250 <sup>10</sup>	625 <sup>5</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	William Usher			299 <sup>3</sup>	149 <sup>11</sup> 6	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	Samuel Patrick & John Greaves			338 <sup>8</sup>	169 <sup>4</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	Heram Munson	26 <sup>1</sup> 2	13 <sup>0</sup> 7			D <sup>o</sup>
30 <sup>th</sup> March 1767	Lewis Miller	39 <sup>15</sup> 7	19 <sup>8</sup> 9 1/2			D <sup>o</sup>
1 January 1767	Edward Scarffe	60 <sup>19</sup> 2	30 <sup>9</sup> 7			D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	Samuel Patrick & John Greaves			435 <sup>9</sup>	217 <sup>14</sup> 6	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Bill			996 <sup>11</sup> 6	498 <sup>5</sup> 9	D <sup>o</sup>
D <sup>o</sup>	John Giffen	10 <sup>11</sup>	20 <sup>5</sup> 6			Ditto
11 Novem <sup>b</sup> 1766	William Cox			355 <sup>19</sup>	177 <sup>19</sup> 6	1 Jan <sup>y</sup> 1767
1 January 1767	James Rowland			237 <sup>16</sup> 6	118 <sup>18</sup> 3	from the date
D <sup>o</sup>	Edward Baker			832 <sup>5</sup> 6	416 <sup>2</sup> 9	D <sup>o</sup>
7 June 1766	Lansford Owen			182 <sup>1</sup>		
30 <sup>th</sup> Decem <sup>b</sup> 1766	Thomas Johnston			390 <sup>2</sup>	195 <sup>1</sup>	from the date
10 <sup>th</sup> July 1767	Simeon Smith & John Burnett			187 <sup>16</sup> 6	93 <sup>18</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
15 <sup>th</sup> of October 1767	Joseph Holder			1264 <sup>7</sup> 6	632 <sup>3</sup> 9	D <sup>o</sup>
1 January 1767	Thomas Carter			700 <sup>4</sup> 6	350 <sup>2</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
25 <sup>th</sup> August 1766	William Bennet			872 <sup>3</sup>	436 <sup>1</sup> 6	D <sup>o</sup>
1 June 1767	Simeon Veron			180 <sup>7</sup> 6	90 <sup>13</sup> 6	D <sup>o</sup>
26 April 1765	John Giles			357 <sup>0</sup> 6	178 <sup>10</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
27 August 1766	William Hoiv			245 <sup>0</sup> 6	122 <sup>10</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
17 August 1766	Thomas Owen			199 <sup>2</sup>	99 <sup>11</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>
1 September 1765	John Moore & Jacob Moore			894 <sup>16</sup> 6	447 <sup>8</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
1 September 1767	John Cooke			195 <sup>10</sup> 6	97 <sup>15</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
1 October 1767	Nathaniel Alexander			303 <sup>4</sup> 6	151 <sup>12</sup> 3	D <sup>o</sup>
1 January 1767	Silas Lyons	23 <sup>10</sup> 6	11 <sup>15</sup> 3			D <sup>o</sup>
10 <sup>th</sup> July 1767	Simeon Smith			360 <sup>19</sup> 6	180 <sup>9</sup> 9	D <sup>o</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup> Octob <sup>r</sup> 1761	George Ellzey			147 <sup>19</sup> 10	73 <sup>19</sup> 11	D <sup>o</sup>
10 March 1764	Jacob Butler			1050 <sup>1</sup>	525 <sup>1</sup>	from the date
1 Novem <sup>b</sup> 1766	Benjamin Singletary			261 <sup>14</sup>	130 <sup>17</sup> 6	D <sup>o</sup>
8 Decem <sup>b</sup> 1766	Thomas Todd	20 <sup>0</sup> 2	10 <sup>4</sup> 1			D <sup>o</sup>
1 June 1767	Charles Saul Senior	45 <sup>0</sup> 6	22 <sup>10</sup> 3			D <sup>o</sup>
1 May 1767	Lansford Owen Senior			269 <sup>19</sup>	134 <sup>19</sup> 6	D <sup>o</sup>
1 May 1767	Benjamin Page	35 <sup>12</sup> 6	17 <sup>16</sup> 3			D <sup>o</sup>
1 January 1767	William Morris	131 <sup>11</sup> 10	215 <sup>15</sup> 11			D <sup>o</sup>
		840 <sup>17</sup> 11	420 <sup>8</sup> 11 1/2	17229 <sup>15</sup> 10	8621 <sup>17</sup> 0	
		5086 <sup>0</sup> 5	2543 <sup>2</sup> 0	5086 <sup>5</sup> 5	2543 <sup>2</sup> 0	
		23116 <sup>1</sup> 3	11558 <sup>0</sup> 4			

As several sums have been received in part of the above Bonds by John Mc Dougall as by Invoices or Receipts on the Back of the same